

EPA Talks Removal Of Arkwood Soil

The Environmental Protection Agency is talking about digging out contaminated soil this spring at the Arkwood site near Omaha, according to an EPA news release.

Arkwood is on the national Superfund clean-up list because of soil and water contamination from cancer-causing pentachlorophenol left on the site from a wood-treating plant that operated there from 1962 to 1984.

The news release said soil tests showed pentachlorophenol appeared to have soaked deeper than 10 feet into the soil at a railroad trench north of the site and "other areas of the site also exhibit deep affected zones."

"A removal action is currently being discussed as a possibility for this spring," the news release said.

"The removal action would excavate contaminated soil that is believed to be the major source of the ground water contamination; i.e., the sump area, sinkhole area, and the railroad ditch north of the site." The

exacavated material would be trucked offsite to a commercial incinerator.

"This action would be accomplished by Mass Merchandisers with EPA oversight," the news release said.

Mass Merchandisers, the last company to treat wood at the Arkwood site, is paying for a study that will gauge site pollution and recommend cleanup procedures, but liability for the cost of the cleanup apparently will be decided in lawsuit by the state against all former owners.

The news release said Mass Merchandisers' study was on schedule "and we expect to invite public comment in about a year."

It said Brent Truskoski has been named EPA project manager for the Arkwood site, replacing Ruth Izraeli, who is working on Superfund sites in Texas. Truskowski has a degree in mining engineering from Colorado School of Mines and has been with the EPA for two years.

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